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To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District of Withnell.

Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of the Urban District of Withnell for the year 1951.

The statistics relating to Births and Deaths supplied by the Registrar General and the County Health Department; together with particulars of Infectious Diseases and Sanitary circumstances of the District are given in the Report. Comparability factors for adjustment of local Births and Deaths Rates are also supplied by the Registrar General. These factors take into account the varying population constitution including sex and age distribution to make the Birth and Death Rates of every district comparable with the Rates of the Country as a whole or with similarly adjusted Rates for other areas.

BIRTHS:- The number of registered live births assignable to the District for the Year 1951 was 40 - a decrease of 11 on the previous year. The live birth rate for the District calculated on population corresponds to 14.1 per 1000. The rate for the previous year was 17.8. The adjusted birth rate using the comparability factor referred to above is 13.6. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year 1951 was 15.5.

INFANT DEATHS:- There was one death of an infant under one year of age during the year 1951 as against 3 such deaths in the previous year.

MATERNAL DEATHS:- It is very pleasing to be able to report again that there have been no deaths from diseases or accidents of child-birth or pregnancy. This is the sixth successive year that there has been no such deaths.

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS:- There were two deaths from tuberculosis during the year 1951. In the year 1950 there was one death from this cause.

TOTAL DEATHS:- The total number of deaths assignable to the District for the year 1951 was 53 being an increase of 12 on the previous year. The death rate for the district calculated on population is 18.7 per 1000. The rate for the previous year was 14.3. The death rate using the comparability factor is 18.0. The death rate for England and Wales as a whole for the year 1951 was 12.5 per 1000 population. The causes of the increased deaths were mainly heart disease, bronchitis, kidney disease and diabetes.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:- During the year the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified was 49 as compared with 26 in the year 1950. The principal cause of increase was measles of which there were 32 cases notified as compared with 1 in 1950. There were again no cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES:- Particulars in regard to the sanitary circumstances of the District will be found in the Report. There have been no changes of a major nature during the year.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES:- The Urban District of Withnell is in Health Division 4 for purposes of the Health Services provided by the Lancashire County Council.

In conclusion I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members for the kind consideration shown to Dr. Doherty and myself. I also wish to express our indebtedness to Mr.Mandale, Clerk to the Council and Mr.Gregson, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for their valuable co-operation and assistance,

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. WALKER.

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SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the district is 4,190 acres. The population figure at the 1931 Census was 3,040. For 1951 the Registrar General calculated the population as 2,830

The Rateable Value was £12,902 and a penny rate produced £50.

The chief industries are Paper Making, Quarrying, a Saw Mill and Cotton Mills. There has been no change in social conditions.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total.	Male.	Female.		
Legitimate.	39	19	20	Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population mid 1950.	14.1.
Illegitimate.	1	1	-		
	40	20	20		
STILL BIRTHS.	NIL	NIL	NIL	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)births	NIL
DEATHS.	53	29	24	Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	18.7

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

	Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000 total(live and still) births.
Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Abortion.	NIL	NIL

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births	25
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	25.64
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	NIL

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY:-

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.	NIL
Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births.	NIL

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS

Year	Live births.		Deaths (all causes)		Still-births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality Total		Infant Mortality Neo-natal	
Withnell U.D.	No. registered.	Rate per 1000 pop'n	No. registered.	Rate per 1000 pop'n	No. registered.	Rate per 1000 total births.	No. of deaths registered.	Rate per 1000 total births.	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1000 live births
1951	40	14.1	53	18.7	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	25	NIL	NIL
1950	51	17.8	41	14.3	1	19	NIL	NIL	3	59	2	39
1949	47	16.3	49	17.0	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1948	48	16.9	27	9.5	4	76	NIL	NIL	1	20	NIL	NIL
1947	56	70.7	42	15.5	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	2	35	NIL	NIL
1946	41	15.3	30	11.2	1	23	NIL	NIL	1	24	NIL	NIL
Avge. 5 yrs. 1946-1950	-	17.4	-	13.5	-	34	-	NIL	-	29	-	NIL

Adjusted (live birth-rate (comparability factor 0.96) = 13.6 per 1000
(death-rate (comparability factor 0.96) = 18.0 per 1000

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause	Male.	Female.	Total.
1. Tuberculosis Respiratory	1	-	1
2. " Other	-	1	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	2	-	2
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	2	5
16. Diabetes	1	2	3
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	4	5	9
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	3	1	4
20. Other Heart Disease	5	7	12
21. Other Circulatory Disease	2	-	2
22. Influenza	1	1	2
23. Pneumonia	-	2	2
24. Bronchitis	4	2	6
28. Nephritis & Nephrosis	2	1	3
32. Other defined & ill-defined Diseases	1	-	1
ALL CAUSES	29	24	53

SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health:- J.Walker M.B.,C.H.B.,L.D.S.,D.P.H.,D.P.D.

Other Public Appointments:-

M.O.H. Leyland U.D.C.
M.O.H. Longridge U.D.C.
M.O.H. Preston R.D.C.
Divisional M.O.Health Division No.4.

Remuneration £50 per annum (paid to the Lancashire County Council.)

Sanitary Inspector:- Cyril Leach Gregson. M.I.H.E.,M.S.I.A.,C.R.,San.I. a part time officer holding the appointment of Surveyor.

Remuneration £217/10/-d per annum.

No other Public Health Officer held office during 1951.

LABORATORY SERVICES:-

The laboratory at Preston Royal Infirmary was available for the examination of specimens for the diagnosis of cases of infectious disease and for pathological specimens for ordinary diseases.

Similar use of this laboratory was made for the bacteriological examination of samples of milk.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of persons of the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was:-

Type of Tuberculosis.	1951.	1950.	1949.	1948.
Pulmonary	18	17	14	12
Non-Pulmonary	7	7	6	3

There was one primary notification (Respiratory), in 1951 and two deaths.

Two persons were removed from the Register.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY. 1951

Age.Periods.Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								1.
5								
10								
15								
20								
25								
35					1.			
45		1.						
55								
65 upwards.								
TOTAL.		1.			1.			1.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Infectious Diseases were admitted to the Joint Hospital at Heath Charnock - a total of Five cases were admitted to this Hospital in 1951.

Smallpox cases - there were none - would be admitted to the Ainsworth Hospital at Bury.

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifiable Disease.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.															
	Total all Ages.	Age Periods - Years.												Total Deaths.	Removal to Hospital.	Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to district.
		0 - 1	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	65				
Smallpox	NIL															
Scarlet Fever	4			2	2										4	
Diphtheria	NIL															
Measles	32		6	5	21											
Whooping Cough	6	2	1	2	1											
Acute Pneumonia	7					1					2	4	4	1		4
Erysipelas	NIL															
Puerperal Pyrexia	NIL															
Continued Fever	NIL															
Totals	49	2	7	9	24	1					2	4	4	5		4

A small outbreak of measles occurred in the early part of the year.

The spring outbreak of influenza, so prevalent elsewhere, was not marked in this district.

5 houses were disinfected after infectious diseases.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK PRODUCTION.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 the inspection and supervision of milk production is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All meat is coming from the Central Depot in Blackburn.

Tinned meat, fruit and vegetables were inspected and in eight cases were voluntarily surrendered for condemnation. No statutory action was necessary.

BAKEHOUSES.

Six bakehouses exist, and were in good condition during the year.

A resolution to adopt the Clean Food Bye-Laws has been approved, but not implemented.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply is obtained from the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks Undertaking from Withnell Reservoir (upland surface water).

894 dwelling houses and an estimated population of 2850 persons are supplied with this water.

Six Bacteriological examinations of water were made in the year. Four were satisfactory and Two unsatisfactory.

In addition, a further 30 dwelling houses - estimated population 90 - obtain their water from private supplies. There is no report of any cases of infection having arisen due to unsatisfactory water supply during 1951.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There are two Sewerage Disposal Works with settlement tanks and sprinklers, and one Works with settlement tanks and contact beds, the effluent being dealt with by land irrigation. The only areas without proper drainage systems are isolated farms and premises which are a considerable distance from any sewer.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AT END OF 1951.

Privy Middens.	None
Pail Closets.	194
Dry Ashpits.	58
Moveable Ashbins.	858
Waste Water Closets.	39
Fresh Water Closets.	810
Houses on Water Carriage System.	670

During 1951 eleven Closets were converted to Fresh Water Closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of house refuse was carried out weekly by the Council. The refuse was collected by motor lorry and disposed of by controlled tipping.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

The number of inspections for nuisances and for defects during the year was 40 and 62 defects were found. 20 of these were

SANITARY INSPECTIONS (continued)

abated and six informal notices were served. No Statutory Notices were served, and there were no legal proceedings.

HOUSING AND HOUSING CONDITIONS.

In 1951 14 permanent houses were erected by the Local Authority and 2 by private enterprise.

During the year 33 dwelling houses were inspected for housing defects and 30 were found unfit. 20 were rendered fit by informal action by the officers of the Local Authority.

Mainly due to the high cost of repairs in relation to the market value of the property (mostly old), difficulty is being experienced in administering the relevant Sections of the Housing and Public Health Acts.

The main type of house in the area is the cottage type built in rows with either four or five habitable rooms. The main defects are defective roofs, walls, gutters, spouts and windows, producing dampness.

Overcrowding is generally due to lodgers. In three cases it is due to families with 7-8 children. For large families the Council is erecting houses to alleviate special cases.

There are five inhabited back to back houses. There are no inhabited back to earth houses.

The Contract for the erection of a further twenty houses is nearing completion.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

General supervision was exercised over the sanitary conveniences and hygiene of the thirteen factories and five "other premises" registered with the Local Authority. 12 inspections were made; no sanitary defects were found.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The Council owns the Public Baths. The Plunge is 75 feet by 25 feet. Slipper Baths are also provided. There are no privately owned baths.

The new boiler, filtration and chlorination plant has brought the Baths up to a very modern standard, and the water in the Plunge has been excellent throughout the year.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS.

The model bye-laws for the handling of food have not yet been adopted by the Council.

A resolution was passed by the Council that notices requesting dogs be excluded from food shops be exhibited in said food shops.